

was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Lee in view
25 of Welsh, U.S. Pat. No. 4,935,847. Claims 10, 12 and 14-16 were rejected under 35
U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Lee in view of Jones, U.S. Pat. No.
6,062,908.

Proposed Drawing Change

Enclosed are both a highlighted sheet showing the proposed change,
30 and a clean copy of the sheet, as changed. In the proposed drawing change, the
reference numeral 63 is added to the figure. Support for this change can be found in
the paragraph that begins on line 3 of page 10. In particular, that paragraph recites
that:

35 [t]he upper and lower light pipes 25, 27 are connected to the
computer chassis 23, and are preferably configured as tracks
that longitudinally receive and guide the upper edge 73 and
lower edge 75 of the carrier 11 through the chassis' opening 29
in a *chassis-insertion direction* 63 so as to guide the carrier's
40 second system connector 19 to mate with the chassis' system
connector 21.

The proposed drawing change adds no new matter.

Claim Objections

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the suggestions to improve the
form of the claims. Claims 1-10, 12-13 and 15-20 have been amended to conform
45 to the requirements of the Examiner's objections. These changes included the
amending and removal of additional terms in accordance with the Examiner's
requirement that all claims be checked. Applicant believes that the Examiner's

requirements have been met, and Applicant respectfully requests the objections be withdrawn.

50 Additional Amendments To Better Claim The Invention

Applicant has made additional amendments to better claim the invention, and not related to patentability. In particular, Applicant has added consistency to the application by consistently referring to the "insertion direction defined by the card's system connector" as the card-insertion direction.

55 Additionally, Applicant has made explicit that printed circuit card connectors are configured for communication.

Claims 1-7

Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Lee, and dependent claim 5
60 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lee in view of Welsh.

As shown in FIG. 1 of the present application, reproduced below with names added to several reference numerals, the invention relates to a carrier 11 for connecting a printed circuit board 17 card to a chassis 23. The card has a system
65 connector 15 that defines a card-insertion direction 61. The chassis 23 defines an opening 29 for receiving the card, and includes a system connector 21 to be placed in communication with the system connector 15 of the card 17. The chassis' system connector 21 and opening 29 define a chassis-insertion direction 63 (note - see proposed drawing change).

The carrier 11 has a first system connector 13 configured to mate (in the card insertion direction 61) and communicate with the card's system connector 15. The carrier also has a *second system connector 19 configured to mate* (in the chassis-insertion direction 63) and communicate *with the chassis' system connector 21*. The second system connector is in communication with the first system connector, thus placing the chassis's system connector in communication with the card's system connector.

As shown in FIG. 1 of the Lee patent, reproduced below with component names used by the examiner added to several reference numerals, the Lee patent discloses a printed circuit board card 20 received into a chassis. The Examiner alleges that Lee also discloses a carrier comprising a body 10 having a front end and a rear end, a first system connector 14 carried on the body and configured to mate with the card's system connector, a second system connector 17 carried on the body and configured to mate with the card's system connector. The Examiner further alleges that the carrier's body and first system connector are configured such that the carrier's second system connector can be inserted into an opening in the chassis-insertion direction to mate with the chassis' system connector.

Claim 1 recites that the connector comprises a body, a first system connector and a second system connector. From the Examiner's description of the disclosure in FIG. 1 of the Lee patent, Applicant is unclear what the Examiner refers to as the chassis. Nevertheless, it is clear that in the Lee patent, the device

that the Examiner refers to as the carrier's second system connector 17 mates with the printed circuit board card 20, and not with a chassis system connector.

95 Claim 1 recites that "a second system connector [is] carried on the body and configured to mate and communicate with the chassis system connector." The Lee patent fails to disclose a second system connector 17 that mates with a chassis' system connector. The Welsh patent also fails to disclose this feature. For this reason Applicant believes the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-7 under § 102(b),
100 and the rejection of claim 5 under § 103(a) are improper and respectfully requests they be withdrawn.

Claims 8-15 and 17-19

Independent claims 8, 13 and 17, and dependent claims 9, 11 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Lee.

105 Dependent claims 10, 12 and 14-15, each depending either from claim 8 or 13, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lee in view of Jones.

Independent claims 8, 13 and 17 each recite "a second system connector carried on the body, configured to mate and communicate with the chassis system connector." As noted above with regard to claim 1, the Lee patent fails to disclose a second system connector that mates with a chassis' system connector. The Jones patent also fails to disclose this feature. For this reason Applicant believes the rejection of claims 8-9, 11, 13 and 17-19 under § 102(b), and the rejection of claims 10, 12 and 14-15 under § 103(a) are improper and respectfully requests they be withdrawn.

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Claim 16

Independent claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lee in view of Jones.

As further shown in FIG. 1 of the present application, the invention also relates to a connection system including a guide configured as a *track* to guide the card through the chassis opening. The guide is translucent, providing an efficient communication system from a light source located at an internal portion of the chassis to the opening where a card is inserted.

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Applicant respectfully acknowledges that the Jones patent discloses
125 the use of light pipes to couple the emitted light from an LED to corresponding
viewing ports. However, neither the Lee patent nor the Jones patent suggest
combining a track-like guide with a translucent light pipe having a light source
illuminating a backplane end. Indeed, the light pipes of the Jones patent are not
appropriate for use as a track, as they do not extend in an insertion direction and
130 they are not located appropriately close to their respective connectors. Furthermore,
the LEDs (i.e., the light sources) at the end of the disclosed light pipes are expressly
described as located outside the shielded area inside of the connector openings to
minimize signal noise (see, Jones, col 7, lines 10-15). Thus, the Jones patent
teaches away from the use of a translucent track-like guide with a backplane light
135 source.

Claim 16 recites that "a guide being configured as a track *to guide the*
card through the chassis opening, and further guide the system connector in
communication with the card to mate with the chassis system connector, wherein
the guide extends from an end adjacent to the backplane to an end at the opening of
140 the chassis, the guide being *composed of a translucent material*." Both the Lee and
Jones patents fail to disclose or suggest that a track-like guide be configured with
translucent material and a light source at a backplane end. For this reason Applicant
believes the rejection of claims 16 under § 103(a) is improper and respectfully
requests it be withdrawn.

145 Claim 20

Independent claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Lee.

150 Both in general usage and in the art the term communication relates to the transfer of information. For example, The Concise Oxford Dictionary, Ninth Edition, defines communication as "the science and practice of transmitting information esp. by electronic or mechanical means." This construction of the term communication is fully supported in the specification, which states that "Each carrier's first and second system connector are in communication with each other to put a card in communication with the computer system." (*see*, pg. 5, lines 15-16).

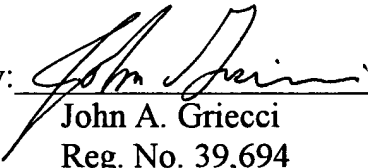
155 Claim 20 recites "a means for placing the card system connector in communication with the chassis system connector, wherein the card bulkhead is positioned to be approximately coplanar with the chassis opening when the card system connector in communication with the chassis system connector." The Lee patent fails to disclose a means for placing the card system connector in
160 communication with the chassis system connector. For this reason Applicant believes the rejection of claim 20 under § 102(b) is improper and respectfully requests it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

165 In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant requests favorable consideration
and allowance of all claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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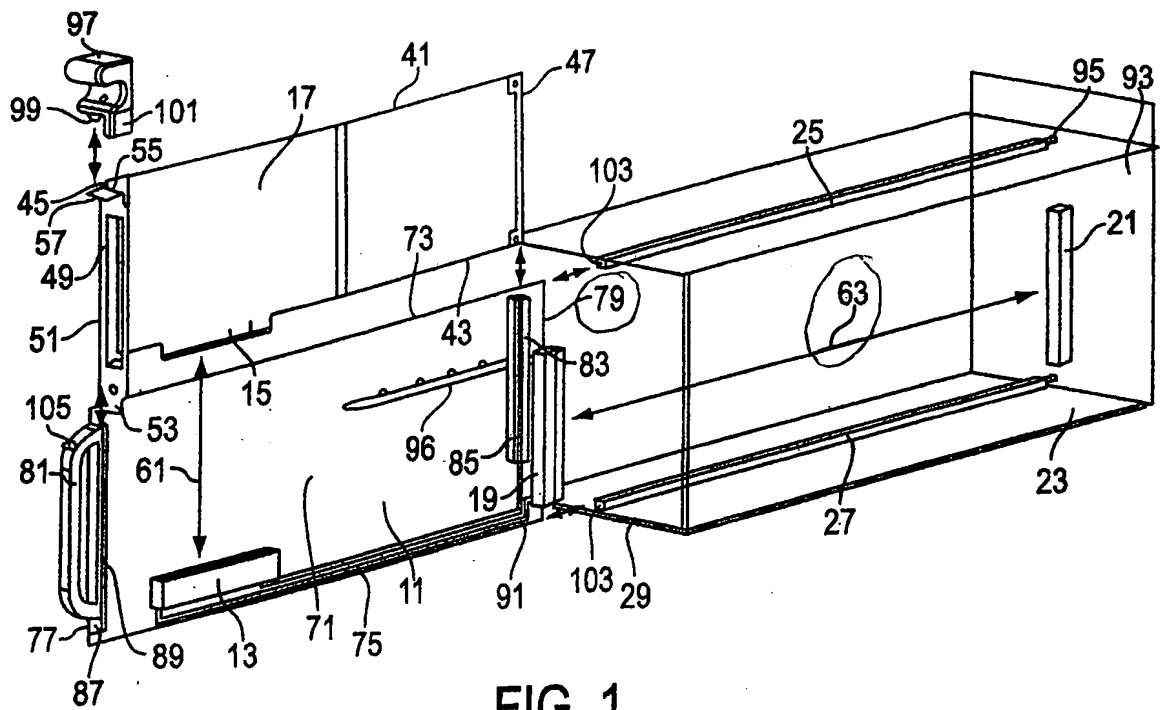


FIG. 1

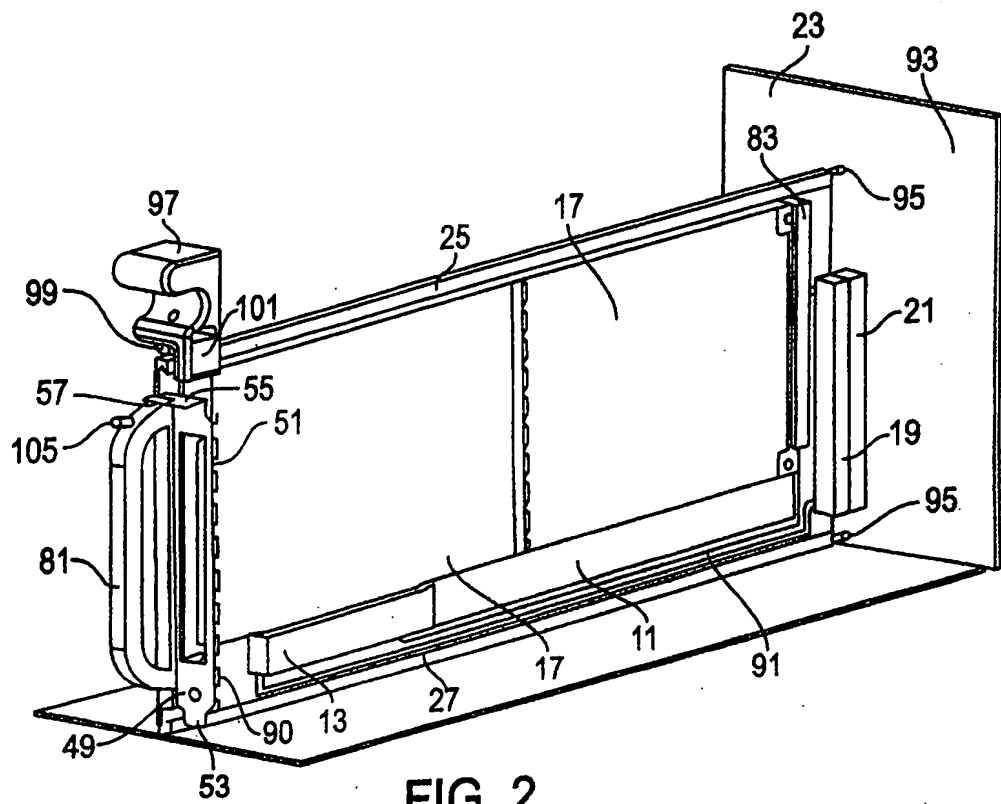


FIG. 2